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Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20554

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

In the Matter of

MID-PLAINS RURAL TELEPHONE
COOPERATIVE, INC.

Petition to Change the LATA Association
of the Silverton, Texas Exchange
from the Amarillo, Texas LATA
to the Lubbock, Texas LATA

CC Docket No. 96-158
NSD-L-96-3

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REPLY COMMENTS
OF MID-PLAINS RURAL TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE, INC.

Mid-Plains Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc. ("Mid-Plains"), through counsel, hereby files these Reply Comments in response to the Commission's Public Notice issued in the above-captioned proceeding.¹ The Commission's Public Notice sought comment on Mid-Plains' May 16, 1996 Request for Expedited Action ("Request") to change the LATA association of the Silverton, Texas exchange from the Amarillo, Texas LATA (546) to the Lubbock, Texas LATA (544). In its Request, Mid-Plains set forth all pertinent information concerning the proposed LATA reassociation, including a streamlined procedure both for notifying all affected carriers and for filing any objection to the proposed LATA change. Moreover, on May 29, 1996, Mid-Plains notified the Commission that it had received no objections to its Request and again sought expedited relief.

The only commenting party, the National Telephone Cooperative Association ("NTCA"), filed in support of Mid-Plains' Request. NTCA notes "that the public interest would be served best by the Commission's expeditious approval of the requested LATA association

¹/ Public Notice, CC Docket No. 96-158, DA 96-1189, released July 26, 1996.

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change,"² and points out "that the Commission's decision to consider the LATA reassociation request via a notice and comment procedure unreasonably and unnecessarily delays the proposed service."³

Mid-Plains has previously demonstrated that the LATA association change will serve the public interest by effecting operational efficiencies, allowing Mid-Plains to provide high quality telecommunications service to approximately 430 subscribers in Silverton in a prudent manner as explained within its Request. As demonstrated by the Request and further substantiated by the lack of any opposition to it, Mid-Plains hereby respectfully submits that an expeditious approval of the requested LATA association change would serve the public interest.

Respectfully submitted,

**MID-PLAINS RURAL
TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE, INC.**

By 
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September 10, 1996

²/ NTCA Comments at 4.

³/ Id. at 2.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Nicola A. Chenosky, of Kraskin & Lesse, 2120 L Street, N.W., Suite 520, Washington, D.C., 20037, hereby certify that on the 10th day of September 1996, I mailed by first class U.S. mail, postage prepaid, a copy of the attached Reply Comments to the parties listed below:


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